INFERNO

Central Connecticut State College
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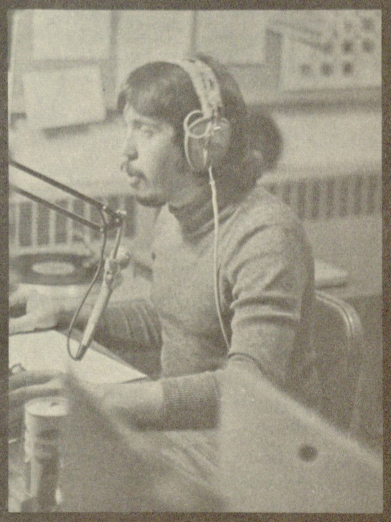
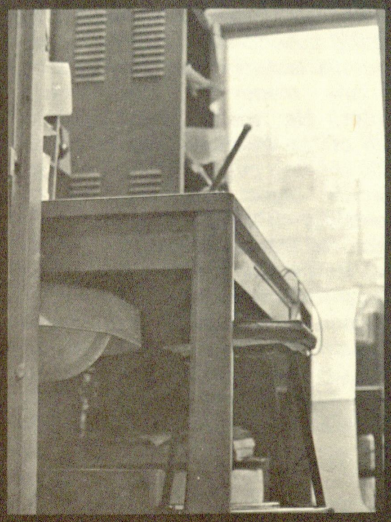
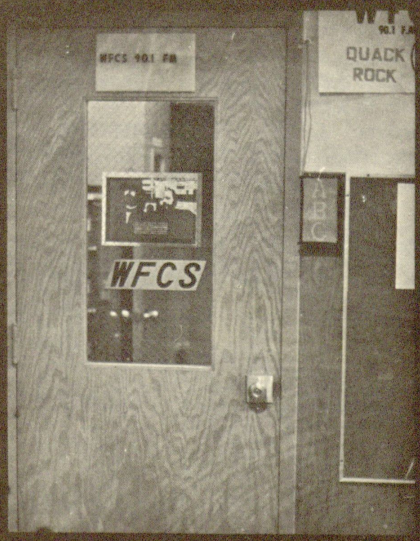


WFCS RADIO 90.1 F.M. 670 A.M.



no money



poor facilities

need help

see page 6

POTENTIAL OF WFCS RADIO HINDERED BY LIMITED BUDGET AND POOR FACILITIES

by david w. riling

On March 13, 1973 John Downey arrived in New Britain, Ct. after having spent nearly 22 years as a prisoner in Communist China.

Central Connecticut's radio station WFCS was chosen by the Associated Press (AP) to provide the audio feed of Downey's press conference held at New Britain General Hospital. Providing audio feed, means taping all questions and answers at the press conference and then back at the studio editing the tapes and relaying them to the AP. This audio feed was used by seventeen different stations including the Mutual Broadcasting System.

This is the same college radio station that requisitioned a tube tester (used to ascertain whether radio tubes are usable or need replacing) and waited three years until they were finally allocated the funds needed to make the purchase.

On Sunday September 22 of this year a banquet was held at the Portuguese Club of Hartford by the Portuguese community to honor five Disc Jockeys. A large number of persons spent $7.50 for a ticket to show their gratitude to these broadcasters, including Fernando Rosa, a Central student and WFCS D.J. who does an International Program (in Portuguese) every Saturday from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

On Friday October 11, Vincent F. Kajunski of the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) made an inspection of the WFCS broadcasting facilities. Mr. Kajunski found a number of violations and inadequacies at the station which must be corrected (under FCC regulations) in order to continue broadcasting.

John Eberhard, WFCS Programming Director, was unsure of the exact nature or extent of the FCC violations as the formal notice has not been received yet. Eberhard's main concern is that many of the violations are due to the lack of required structural features, and the inability to purchase these items may force WFCS to discontinue broadcasting.

Last summer two WFCS members went to New York City, paying 2/3 of their expenses to attend a meeting with WCBS Radio, the third largest radio station in New York. The purpose of this meeting, was to discuss Central's participation in a news program entitled "Report from the Campus."

This program would interview faculty and students from 18 eastern colleges on issues of the day, and

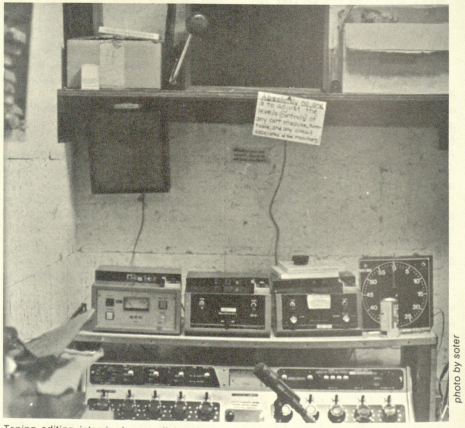


photo by soter

Taping, editing, interviewing are all done in this studio.

Central Conn. was chosen over all other colleges in the Hartford area. Ten, five minute spots would be broadcast one day every three weeks. Central Conn. will not be included in this program however and a large audience recognition of this college has been lost. The reason that CCSC was not included, WFCS lacked sufficient funds to cover the cost of programming.

From these few examples, it should be apparent that a paradox exists between the accomplishments and potential of WFCS as opposed to the limited conditions under which they operate.

Of the four major media on campus, one comes out yearly, one bi-monthly, one weekly and one almost constantly.

WFCS, which is on the air from 7:00 a.m. usually until 3:00 a.m., received a $7,951.27 budget for this year, making it the lowest budgeted media on campus. It must be remembered that even as the lowest budgeted media with the most time servicing the campus, WFCS serves the surrounding community as well. And unless one believes that a campus should be isolated from the surrounding community, WFCS performs a valuable

Partial collection of records located in broadcast room.

dual function serving both campus and community.

Since becoming an FM station two years ago, WFCS 90.1 FM has been a ten watt non-commercial educational station. Being classified as an educational station means that at least 10% of what goes on the air must be educational. WFCS fills its educational obligations in a number of ways, including news, weather, public service messages, and interview and talk shows. Also in an educational capacity WFCS carries a program from Washington D.C. called In the Public Interest (IPI) in which knowledgeable well-known personalities speak on topics of interest and importance.

Also on Sundays at 6 p.m. News Block runs an in depth look on a major news item of the week. Added to these items is the fact that WFCS airs all announcements brought to them from any non-profit organizations, specifically from other campus organizations. As one WFCS member put it, "We are interested and concerned about this campus and any way we can help, WFCS wants to do it."

Sports are not forgotten and daily at 11:30 and 6:30 there is a sports wrap-up. Also, all away football games are reported live as well as quarterly reports of home games.

WFCS is not strictly educational however, nor is it a mere two years old. There has been a radio station at Central for nearly 26 years; the major difference is that prior to becoming an FM station two years ago, Central radio could be heard only in the dormitories and buildings on campus. This was due to the fact that telephone lines were used for transmission purposes, and range was extremely limited. But, whether through telephone lines or FM, a lot of music has been broadcasted in 26 years.

Today the basic musical format could be described as Progressive Rock, but in addition to this there are two oldies programs, classical music, yesteryear songs (1920-40), jazz, country folk music and many others.

One interesting fact of radio concerns how music is chosen for broadcast and who does the choosing. At WFCS this responsibility is largely up to the program director. It is up to him to classify a record into one of three categories: A, B or C. Category A consists of the top thirty hits as ranked in Billboard magazine. These include songs by Eric Clapton, Chicago, Seals & Croft, etc. Category B records are those relatively well known, the top 100-200 as ranked by Billboard. Finally, Category C consists of unknown progressive music.

What goes on the air then is a blend, a prescribed number of songs from each category, this serves two purposes. It first allows the listener an opportunity to hear familiar, popular music as well as affording the chance to broaden one's musical horizons. It is also in a sense a safety mechanism since a Disc Jockey is obligated to play not only his favorites, but those songs other persons will enjoy. It must be stressed here that Billboard Magazine is not used as the Musical Bible but merely as a guide to what the music industry says is popular.

Aside from the music and taped programs one hears over the air, there are the people that make everything happen. To begin with, there is the life blood of any radio station, the Disc Jockey. This person is responsible for the music, commentary, taped messages and giving the correct time.

Observing a good DJ in action is a pleasure, for like an artist or an athlete, everything must be timed right and things must flow smoothly if the best show is to be broadcast. WFCS General Manager and D.J. Bill Pierce

Special Programming

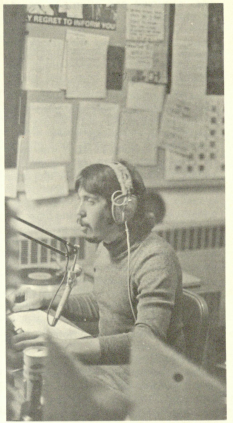
NEWS — M thru F. Every half hour at the bottom of the hour. 5 minute summary. Sunday 6-7, News block. 1 hr. news in depth.

SPORTS — M - F, 11:30 & 6:30. Daily sports wrap-up. Live broadcast of all away games & quarterly reports of home games.

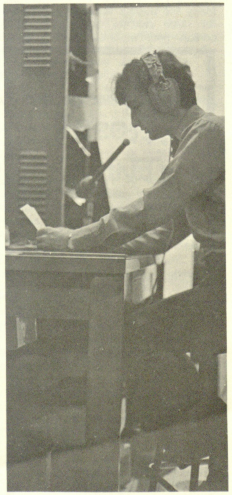
EDUCATIONAL —
M-F
9 a.m., 12 p.m., 3 p.m., 6 a.m.
In the Public Interest
11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m.,
All About Alcohol
10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m.,
Campus Radiovoice
Sat.
8-9 — Book Noise
5-8 — Perspectivas - International Show
Sun.
7-8 — Crawdaddy

Special Program
Sun.
7-10 Classical
10-12 Nostalgia
12-3 Jazz
3-5 Country Folk
5-6 Sherlock Holmes Theater
9-12 Oldie I 50's R & R
12-2 Glitterrock
Mon. — 8-9
Group & Albums Hour
Tues. — 8-9
Bitter Den Live
Wed. — 8-9
Chip's Corner — interviews
Thurs. — 8-9
Trivia Show
Fri. — 8-9
Radio Plays
The Other Side-European Rock

All programs subject to change due to personal flunking out.



William Pearse — general manager of WFCS.



Raymond Bill broadcasting news from the converted bathroom.

was observed one afternoon on the air and amid changing and selecting records, pressing buttons, running tapes and answering the phone, he explained the hows and whys of a radio D.J.

First Mr. Pierce emphasized the need for additional Disc Jockeys. He says as it stands now many people are on the air more than they would wish due to the lack of broadcasters.

WFCS is seeking persons interested in broadcasting, but one does not simply sit down in front of the mike and start 'laying down the sounds.' In order to be an FM D.J. a person needs a third class Radio-Telephone permit.

WFCS runs a class every semester to help interested people obtain their license. At the end of the training period the would-be D.J. must take a three-section, twenty-question test, and must get at least 15 out of 20 questions correct in each section. Depending on the time one wishes to spend, the license can be obtained in a few weeks to a month.

Pierce stressed that at WFCS a D.J. is free to be herself, remembering that as a D.J. one has a responsibility to the public. There is no typical WFCS jock; each person comes across as an individual.

The broadcasters do not pretend to be totally altruistic in their endeavors. Many see this as valuable experience for radio careers, and feel that a person gets much more out of a college radio station than at many broadcasting schools.

Another job of broadcasting is the news announcer, for which no license is needed. In this capacity one learns that the voice a person regularly uses is not the same voice used when reading the news. Aside from BC, a newsperson covers events outside as a reporter, taping speeches, holding interviews, digging up stories etc.

Then too a radio station needs persons in other capacities. These include the general man who oversees the entire operation and the program director, who is in charge of the entire format. The Public Affairs director oversees all announcements broadcast for non-profit organizations. Of course there is a business manager as in all organizations and also the very demanding job of chief engineer who is responsible for all equipment and all repairs.

In addition to these executive board positions, there is a news director, a music director, and other staff members. An interesting feature of WFCS is the fact that all members must serve in dual capacities, i.e. General-Manager-D.J., newsperson-typist, etc. This helps not only shortages in staff, but gives members a chance to experience different aspects involved in broadcasting.

One final note on WFCS must be added, this deals with its facilities. As this reporter watched Bill Pierce cutting away for news, I saw a slight look of apprehension on his face, as the last song faded out and the news music intro. came across the air. The apprehension faded as the news began. You see at WFCS you can never be sure the newsperson is ready, since she is located in a bathroom down the hall. I was told that this situation at most radio stations would be unthinkable since almost always the D.J. has direct visual contact with the newsperson.

There is also a severe lack of available office space as well as storage space. Almost all equipment is non-professional, that is consumer products (Sony, Radio Shack etc.). This is not conducive to the professional quality the staff of WFCS wishes or is capable of. Media priorities at Central should be re-examined just as the entire question of media fundings should be questioned.

to get the most out of your music

MOSTLY MUSIC

(formally choice cuts)

mostly better than the rest

PROGRESSIVE ROCK
SOUL
JAZZ
BLUES
HEAD SUPPLIES
USED ALBUMS
ALWAYS A SPECIAL SALE

MON.-WED.
11 AM - 6 PM
THUR. & FRI.
11 AM - 9 PM
SAT.
11 AM - 5:30 PM

1543 Stanley St. New Britain
next to Central Conn. State College
229-2288

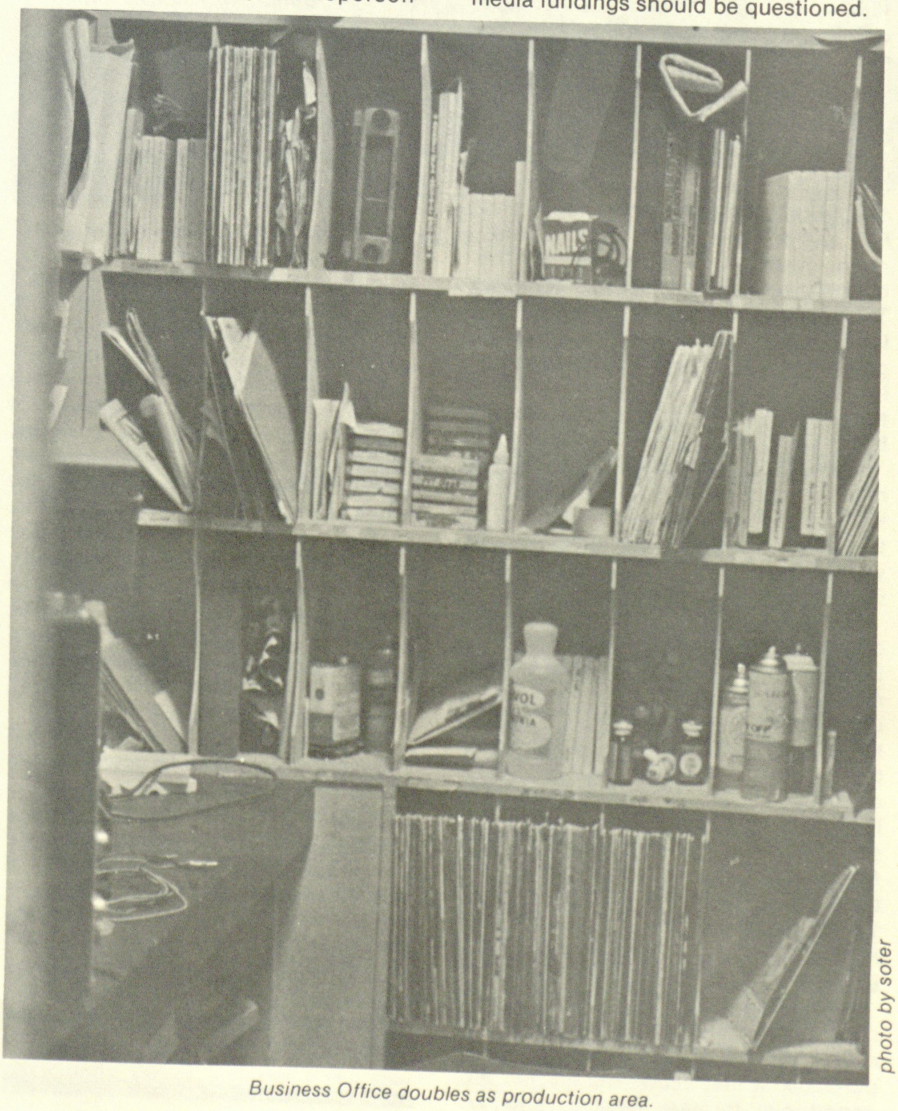


photo by soter

Business Office doubles as production area.